

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4875

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH TO THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

1. MOST CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS APRIL 17 CARRIED A
CNA-WASHINGTON DESPATCH ON PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH APRIL 16
TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS. EXCERPTS
FROM THE SPEECH CONCERNING THE VALUE THE PRESIDENT PLACES
ON US/ROC RELATIONS, OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE ROC'S SECURITY
AND STABILITY, AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE US DELEGATION TO
PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S FUNERAL AS AN INDICATION OF
THE GREAT IMPORTANCE US PLACES ON THE US/ROC
RELATIONSHIP WERE QUOTED IN FULL.

2. THE CNA DESPATCH CHARACTERIZED THE PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS AS "THE STRONGEST SUPPORT OPENLY EXPRESSED BY A
US PRESIDENT TO THE ROC SINCE FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S
VISIT TO PEKING." WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NOTING THAT NO
FIRM AGENDA FOR THE PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING VISIT TO PEKING
HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, NO REFERENCE WAS MADE IN THE
DESPATCH TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE PRC.

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3. IN ADDITON, SOME CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS AS WELL AS BOTH ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED AN AP DESPATCH ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. APRIL 16 EVEING TELEVISION ALSO QUOTED EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MEDIA ARE INTERPRETING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, AS STRONG EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR THE ROC. UNGER

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